

HULMEVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL
Meeting Minutes
May 4, 2020

The regular monthly meeting of the Hulmeville Borough Council was held on the above date via Zoom. This meeting was advertised in the Courier Times, notice was posted at the Borough Hall and on the Borough website.

Roll call was taken by Dorothy Omietanski

Councilmembers Present

Thomas Wheeler, President
Dan Mandolesi, Vice President
Mayor Debbie Mahon
Doug Harris
Doug Edge
Judy Coleman
Nick Lodise
Nicholas Toth
Stanley Omietanski IV, Jr. Council
Sarah Omietanski, Jr. Council

Staff in Attendance

Solicitor Robert DeBias
Chief Baran
Water & Sewer President Kurt Ludwig
Secretary Dorothy Omietanski
Treasurer Diane McKairnes
Fire Marshall William Wheeler

Councilmembers Absent: none

Councilmembers Late to Arrive: none

Staff Absent: none

Guests in Attendance: Joscelyne Ferreira, Jean Slater, Tricia Boyle, Sharon Harger, Eric Fye, Alex Miller, Nick Miller, Gregg Galvelis, Kevin Carragher, Mike Wasson, Rowland Rodger and Pat Slater

Call to Order: Mr. Wheeler called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm; all those present joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Executive Session: Mr. Wheeler informed the public that council held an executive session at 7pm to discuss personnel changes.

Mr. Wheeler Stated: We are holding his meeting by zoom pursuant to Senate Bill SB814, passed as Act 15 of 2020 as a result of the Emergency Declaration issued by Governor Wolf and the stay at home and shelter in place orders that have been issued by Governor Wolf. This meeting was advertised in the Courier Times and notice was posted at the Borough Hall and on the Borough Website. This meeting is being recorded and will be placed on the Borough Website. A draft of the minutes will promptly be placed on the website as well.

Police New Hire and Promotion:

- Promotion – Mayor Mahon recommended the promotion of Kevin Carragher to the rank of Sergeant.

Motion made by Mr. Wheeler as chairman of the Police Committee and seconded by Mr. Mandolesi to promote Officer Kevin Carragher to Sergeant at a compensation rate of \$24.75 per hour; motion passed with all in favor 7-0-0.

- New Hire – Mayor Mahon is recommended hiring Rowland Rodgers III as a police officer. Officer Rodgers a 2010 Police Academy graduate and is currently a Peace Officer for the County of Bucks. Officer Rodgers is being hired part time for days, nights and weekends.

Motion made by Mr. Wheeler and seconded by Mr. Mandolesi to hire Rowland Rodgers III as a part time police officer at a compensation rate of \$24.25 per hour; motion passed with all in favor 7-0-0.

Minutes:

Motion made by Mr. Lodise seconded by Mr. Harris to approve the minutes of April 6, 2020 (there was no meeting on April 21th as it was cancelled due to State Declaration of Emergency which is noted in the Minutes); Motion Passed with all in favor 7-0-0.

Mayor Mahon Statement:

I welcome everyone to visit the websites of Representative Tina M. Davis, Senator Robert M. Tomlinson, and Governor Tom Wolf to stay properly updated with COVID-19 guidance. Visiting every news station and social media platform can be overwhelming and I hope that you are able to find time during your day to decompress through all of the stress. Bucks Counties is in the Red Phase and will continue to be after the May 8th date when other county's will be going into the Yellow Phase. Please continue to honor the guidelines and give respect to everyone during these trying times.

I am continually grateful to our EMC, Bill Wheeler, and Borough Council President, Tom Wheeler with keeping the borough updated with the daily needed reports from the county. We have all been doing our part and I hope that you all continue to make healthy decisions.

Public Comment:

- Oil Spill Update – Nick Miller at 405 Washington asked for an update on the oil spill. Emergency Manager Coordinator Bill Wheeler provided a summary/update as follows. On April 27, 2020 a resident reported a strong oil odor between the end of Washington Ave and the Borough soccer field. Initial investigation discovered dumping of telephone poles as well as a small spill of heating oil. The individual responsible for dumping the poles was notified by the Borough Police, and did immediately remove the poles. The

source of the oil spill has not been confirmed, and the investigation is ongoing. Cleanup of the spill began immediately by placing absorbent pads down to soak up the oil. The pads have been removed, and clean up companies have been contacted. There have also been conversations with DEP regarding the spill. Currently there are two options available to council to finish cleaning up the spill. Council can have a chemical and microbes placed on the spill that will absorb all the oil, or the dirt can be removed. Council President Wheeler also explained that while investigating the spill it was also discovered that people are dumping trash and debris in the area, and a barricade at the end of Washington has been knocked over. This Saturday May 9, 2020 at 9am Ed Vile offered to deliver a dumpster to the location, and council members will assist any home owners who would like to help clean up the area. Mr. Wheeler is also going to post two “No Dumping” signs in the area. He asked the residents that live there to please report to the police anytime they see someone dumping in the area so it can be addressed immediately.

- Oil Spill – Joscelyne Ferreira at 524 Lincoln asked if a soil sampling would need to be done after the cleanup occurs. EMC Mr. Wheeler explained that the spill is so small that no sampling is required, however the one company he spoke to offers a sample as part of their clean up package.
- Historical Society Update – Kurt Ludwig at 301 Main Street provided council with an update on Historical Society events. All events scheduled through July have been cancelled, which includes Senior Citizen Luncheon, Memorial Day Event and the Family Picnic. He also wanted to inform council that the Historical Society has put aside funds for the new pavilion for items needed like furniture.
- Memorial Day Parade – Mr. Wheeler informed the public that the Memorial Day Parade has been cancelled. Mayor Mahon will reach out to the parade committee to see if they are going to hang the traditional yellow ribbons.
- Tree on Catherine Street – Trisha Boyle at 212 Catherine reported a tree that is currently leaning on another tree is in risk of falling. It is on the paper street about 20 feet from the road. Mr. Wheeler informed her that the paper street is not Borough property but the property of the residents on each side of the street.

Emergency Management Coordinator:

- Covid19 Numbers Update – Bucks County currently has a total of 3,400 cases and 250 deaths, Hulmeville Borough has a total of 1-10 cases and 0 deaths.
- Governors Requirement for Next Phase Opening – Governor Wolfe stated that in order for a county to be allowed to move to phase yellow, the county needs to have no more than 22 per cases day, averaged over a 14 day period. Currently Bucks County is at 97 cases a day.
- Meeting Suggestions - EMC Wheeler has put together a proposed standard operation procedure for the Borough Council Meetings once they are held at Borough Hall. He is recommending the Borough purchase gloves, masks, disinfectant wipes and a digital thermometer. He has also submitted a new seating chart to allow for the 6 feet distancing between people. Mr. Harris suggested council place their order for supplies now, because it is going to take a while to receive them.

- Oil Clean Up – Mr. Harris suggested in his professional opinion that the spill should be removed. Mayor Mahon agreed. EMC Wheeler offered to reach out to a couple companies for estimates on completing the work. Jean Staley at 336 Washington asked how soon will the odor go away. Mr. Harris said no matter how you clean it up the odor will take some time to dissipate. Mayor Mahon asked if the borough could do a blend of both solutions removal and chemical treatment. EMC Wheeler explained that once the dirt is removed there would be nothing left to treat with chemicals. Nick Miller at 405 Washington asked if anything is being done to prosecute the person who dumped the oil. Trisha Boyle at 212 Catherine also asked if the borough will charge the person responsible for dumping the oil with the cost of cleaning it up. Chief Baran explained that both of the dumping violations are actively under investigation and he cannot comment. Jean Staley at 336 Washington asked if the chemicals used to clean up the spills are safe. EMC Wheeler explained that these chemicals are used in home applications as well and are very safe. However, since council is moving toward removal of the dirt the chemicals will not be used if the dirt is removed.

Motion made by Mr. Mandolesi and seconded by Mr. Edge to designate an amount not to exceed \$5,000 for clean-up of an oil spill located the Borough soccer field; motion passed with all in favor 7-0-0.

Motion made by Mr. Lodise and seconded by Ms. Coleman to approve the purchase of two No Dumping signs and a dumpster for cleanup at the end of Washington at a cost not to exceed \$750; motion passed with all in favor 7-0-0.

- Update of Removal of Spill – President Wheeler will keep the residents updated as to the removal services that are chosen to use. The removal is going to be done as soon as possible.

Notice from Tax Collector: Mr. Wheeler read a notice from the tax collector. There has not yet been an official announcement from the county or state regarding any changes in the payment date for collection of real estate taxes. Therefore, taxes were due by 4/30 in order to receive the 2% discount. The penalty date has been extended from June 30th to July 30th. **After 7/30 the penalty amount will be imposed.** Any changes in these dates will be passed on to the tax payers, ASAP, and will be placed on the Borough Website. Due to the Governor’s “stay at home” order, there will be no office hours for tax collection for the month of May. Payments can be mailed or dropped in the door. Anyone who is in need of assistance, please call 215-757-6531, option 1 and leave a message. The tax collector will call you back and make arrangements as needed.

Police Report:

- The police report was submitted for the month of April 2020: 20 incident reports, 0 accident reports, 6 assist, 2 EMS call, 0 summary citations, 3 traffic citations, 0 criminal arrests, 1 parking, 0 hours district court and 0-hour county court or total hours worked: 208, Total Salary \$5,224.00.

- Swearing in of Officers – The swearing in of Officer Carragher and Officer Rodgers will be conducted at Borough Hall on Wednesday May 6, 2020. The only people attending will be the Mayor and the families of the officers.
- Computer – Mr. Omietanski has been working on completing a spec list for the new police station computer. Mayor Mahon would like Mr. Toth and Mr. Omietanski to communicate and coordinate their efforts.
- Credit Card – Mayor Mahon inquired about the status of a credit card for the Borough. Mr. Harris apologized with the pandemic he has set this aside; however, he does have a call in currently and will inquire again.
- Thank you – Mayor Mahon wanted to thank Officer Kathy Bevans from Penndel Borough, SGT Michael Phelan from Langhorne Borough as well as Officer Sean DiMeo and Chief John Baran who all helped assist her for the Easter Bunny Crawl through the Borough on Easter Sunday. She would also like to thank President Wheeler and Sheri Wheeler along with her horse Maya in helping to make the day extra special.
- ATV's and Dirt Bikes – There are a group of people driving on the roads with their dirt bikes and ATV's. The group seems to reside in Langhorne Gables. If anyone sees the group please take pictures and forward them to the Chief's or the Mayor's email address.
- Hulmeville Falls – The police are paying close attention to the Hulmeville Falls area. Since isolation more people are visiting the falls and some youth have been there late at night.
- Policies – Mayor Mahon recommended that council adopt a DNA collection policy, and revise the Infectious Disease Policy to include pandemics and Covid19.

Motion made by Mr. Edge and seconded by Mr. Mandolesi to adopt the Hulmeville Borough DNA Collection Police Policy; motion passed with all in favor 7-0-0.

Motion made by Mr. Mandolesi and seconded by Ms. Coleman to update the Infectious Disease Police to include pandemics and Covid19; motion passed with all in favor 7-0-0.

- Proclamation Read by Mayor Mahon

A PROCLAMATION
BELLS ACROSS PENNSYLVANIA
DAY
MAY 3, 2020

Whereas, on March 6, 2020, Governor Tom Wolf proclaimed the existence of a disaster emergency in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, ultimately requiring all Pennsylvania residents to shelter in place; and

Whereas, despite all of the efforts of state, county and municipal governments to mitigate the effects of this pandemic, to date, over 33,232 Pennsylvanians have been afflicted with COVID-19 and 1,204 Pennsylvanians have died from it; and

Whereas, in every municipality, there have been emergency medical personnel, firefighters, police officers, and employees of grocery stores, pharmacies and other life-sustaining businesses who have braved the viral elements, at the expense of themselves and their families, to maintain essential services to the general public

sheltering in place and are deserving of recognition as “hometown heroes”; and

Whereas, elected officials across the Commonwealth have joined together to promote a statewide expression of gratitude to these hometown heroes, solidarity with other Pennsylvanians on the frontlines of the COVID-19 battlefield and determination that their municipal businesses and civic-life will thrive once again; and

Whereas, since days of the American Revolution, the bell has served as an instrument for expressing communal gratitude, camaraderie and resolve, and is a means well-suited for Pennsylvanians sheltering in place to demonstrate such values.

Now, therefore, the Mayor, in concert with the Council of Hulmeville Borough, hereby proclaims:

**Sunday, May 3, 2020 as
Bells Across Pennsylvania Day**

and calls upon all residents and churches at 7:00 p.m. for three minutes to honor their hometown heroes, rally with other Pennsylvanians on the frontlines of the COVID-19 battlefield and show resolve to restore their local businesses and civic life to their former prominence

Mayors Report:

- 150th Anniversary – Ms. Coleman suggested hosting a Zoom meeting. Mayor Mahon suggested have a meeting on 5/20/20 at 7pm. Mr. Toth will set up the meeting for Ms. Coleman and Mayor Mahon to host. Mayor Mahon will contact each committee member personally to make sure they can sign in.
- Earth Day – Earth Day Event was cancelled so the Mayor would like to have a Hulmeville Garden Day on May 17th at 12 noon. This event will be to distribute free plants or seeds to start a garden. Residents can drive into William Penn Fire Co parking lot and a plant will be placed into their car. This will allow the Borough to receive credit for best management practices.

MS4:

- Newsletter – A condensed newsletter, which was written by Joe Coleman, was sent out to highlight the most important subject at hand Covid19. A reimbursement for \$247.50 was requested for postage on the mailing.
- Earth Day – Earth Day event at Core Creek Park was done via an electronic media. Since the Borough and Hulmeville Garden Club mainly give out seedlings and seeds, they did not participate.
- Meeting – Currently there is no meeting scheduled for the MS4 committee.

TMDL / BMP's: Permit years 2018-2022 – items that need to be accomplished over the next 5 years. DEP will be conducting their permit inspections in the spring of 2020. Samantha Brinker from Gilmore will keep us informed of that inspection.

- TMDL No1: encouraged riparian forest buffers for all residents along the creek

- TMDL No 2: conduct site inspections to encourage storm water control measures
- TMDL No 3: installation of 2 deciduous trees in open space or within the borough proper
- TMDL No 4: reduce infiltration
- TMDL No 5: modify basins for increased infiltration reduction
- TMDL No 7: encouraged home owners to install rain barrels
- TMDL No 8: additional provisions:
 - Continued with the 4 leaf pick-ups through the fall/winter season
 - Sump Pump inspection enforcement
 - Decide on sediment reduction project
 - Lawn and garden pick up 4/1-12/1 weekly

Floodplain: nothing to report

Storm Water:

- Updated Data Base – Mayor Mahon appreciates any updates and contact information for new residents that have moved into our town in that storm water affects all residents and not just those who live in floodplain.

Authority:

- Current Projects – All pending repair and remediation projects are currently on hold. Carroll Engineering indicated that construction projects in the Commonwealth appear to be ramping up soon, so the Authority should be able to begin work shortly.
- Billing – Billing enforcement and water service shut off actions are still on hold. Mr. Ludwig will meet with Ms. Slater at the end of the 2nd quarter to re-evaluate the Governor’s office position on these issues in regards to the health crisis and to see where our customers are in regards to their billing status.

Zoning:

- Hopewell Lane – The Mayor requested that the zoning officer draft a letter to a resident on Hopewell Lane who is removing a significant number of trees to ascertain why the trees are being removed.

Solicitor:

- RDA – The police department should have all their bids and bills for the RDA Grants in by the end of the week. Fire Marshal Wheeler is currently working on his expenses as well. Mr. DeBias would like to submit both requests for payment together if possible.
- Subdivision – Mr. DeBias made council aware that there is a request for a subdivision from a resident on Green Street. He has been directed to make applications to the Zoning Board.

Trash:

- Yard Waste – Leck reached out to Mr. Lodise to request that the yard waste pickup be moved from every other Thursday to every other Wednesday starting on 4/29/20. Mayor Mahon will mention the change in her newsletter and Fire Marshal Wheeler will post the change on the website. Mr. DeBias will draft a change to the contract.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer's Report for May 4, 2020 was made available for inspection:

• General Fund Checking Balance as of April 1, 2020:	\$ 238,095.19
Expenses Totaled:	\$ -41,996.60
Income Totaled:	\$ 70,372.51
General Fund Checking Balance as April 30, 2020:	\$ 266,471.10
• Sewer Fund Checking Balance as of April 1, 2020:	\$ 5,419.93
Expenses Totaled:	\$ -19,363.06
Income Toted:	\$ 53,389.17
Sewer Fund Checking Balance as of April 30 2020:	\$ 39,446.04
• Sewer Fund PLGIT Balance as of March 1, 2020:	\$ 279,979.72
Interest	\$ 266.61
Deposit	\$ 0
Expense	\$ 0
Sewer Fund PLGIT Balance as of March 31, 2020:	\$ 280,246.33
• Highway Aid PLGIT Balance as of March 1, 2020:	\$ 54,072.56
Interest	\$ 51.16
Deposit	\$ 0
Expenses	\$ -2,038.95
Highway Aid PLGIT Balance as of March 31, 2020:	\$ 52,084.77
• General Fund PLGIT Balance as of March 1, 2020:	\$ 336,061.08
Interest	\$ 319.12
Deposits	\$ 0
Expenses Total:	\$ 6,795.00
General Fund PLGIT Balance as of March 30, 2020:	\$ 329,585.20

Bills: A copy of the bill list dated May 1, 2020 was provided to Council and offered for review by the public. Note three bills were added \$14.49 PECO, \$2,360 Gilmore and Assoc, and \$575 Judy Buchhofer.

• General Fund beginning balance as of April 30, 2020:	\$ 265,161.47
ending balance as of May 5, 2020:	\$ 243,981.52

